No further requirement of rules is foreseen at present.

Agenda for the Eastern Zonal Council

1917. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the main agenda for the 17th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council held at Patna in September, 1985 ;

(b) how many items were taken up and discussed ; and

(c) what was the total time devoted for discussion on the agenda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The agenda for the meeting included items concerning irrigation and power, mining, industry, agriculture, roads, forests, environment health, and labour etc, apart from a review of implementation of the recommendations made by the Council earlier.

(b) 21 items out of 24 were taken up and discussed.

(c) The meeting continued for about 3-1/2 hours.

Request of Commonwealth Countries to halt Arms Race

1918. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Commonwealth leaders had urged the US and the Soviet Union to halt arms race ;

(b) whether any joint appeal by the Commonwealth leaders was forwarded to both the countries ;

(c) whether the US has turned down the proposal ; and

(d) what was been the reaction of the Soviet Union in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Commonwealth leaders urged upon the United States and the Soviet Union to achieve their declared objectives of preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth. The leaders also appealed to the U.S. and the Soviet Union to begin without delay the process of reversing the nuclear arms race through significant measures of nuclear disarmament.

(c) and (d) The reactions of the Soviet Union and the United States are still awaited.

Development of Eastern Zone

1919. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in September, 1983 a meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council was held and some particular problems of development of the Eastern Zone were placed by the member States ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to sort out those problems ;

(d) the results achieved ; and

(e) if no measures to sort out these problems have been taken so far what are reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The problems relating to the development of mining, rail and road transport, power irrigation